

# INFORMATION REPORT

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The training program to be given at all of the training points in the rayon is the responsibility of the officer commanding the local draft board who, however, may designate one of the permanent duty officers in the local board as his deputy. Formerly, this training was the responsibility of the Voenkomat officer heading the 4th Section. The 4th Section of the Voenkomat has been abolished however, and training is now the direct responsibility of the officer in charge of the local board.

Preinduction training includes: physical education (usually in the morning), military courtesy, weapons assembly, marksmanship, tactics, etc. Training aids will include one rifle or automatic pistol for each 15 to 20 students; one practice grenade; models of light and heavy machine guns; and posters showing other types of equipment.

Preinductees wear civilian clothing during the entire period of training. They also must provide their own food for the entire period as well as their transportation to and from the training point. Moreover, they are not paid for these two weeks of training. Even the reserve instructors wear civilian clothing and must furnish their own food and transportation; however, any of the instructors or preinductees who happen to be working at the time they are called for the training continue to receive their salary from their place of employment and their jobs must be kept open for them.

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On completion of training a suitable remark is made in each youth's "Booklet of the Preinductee" to indicate the completion of training. The preinductee receives no more training prior to his call up to active duty. If he joins or belongs to a DOS organization, he will of course receive further military training; however, this is considered as voluntary on youth's part even though in most cases compulsory participation is the rule.

The local rayon draft board calls up its quota of people on the basis of requisitions received from the Office of Organization and Mobilization at Military District Headquarters. It sends them to the oblast draft board on a specified day. The oblast board in turn sends the draftees to existing units within the military district, accompanied by an officer.

On arrival in a unit the recruits undergo a period of "quarantine" lasting two months. This is the closest equivalent to the American concept of basic training. Recruits receive physical examinations, clothing, and additional basic military training. Their special abilities are studied as a basis for future assignment.

At the end of the quarantine period, when the recruits know the fundamentals of military life including how to fire a rifle, they are assigned to a regular outfit on the basis of quotas from headquarters. They take their oath of allegiance which marks the end of quarantine. Thereupon they become full-fledged soldiers and start on the training cycle phase.

Inside a military unit, there is a year's training program. At the close of the summer training period, the forces return to winter quarters; demobilization takes place, and new recruits are received following their quarantine period. The new training cycle then begins at the close of the year or in January.

The first stage consists of individual training and development of one's specialty (truck, radio, weapons, etc.). The second stage is comprised of small unit assembly and tactics. The third stage and on takes up company through division maneuvers. Summer training is devoted to training larger units and how to live in the field. May, June, July, and August are the months of the summer training period. It is the time when individual training is completed, so the troops are ready to go into tactical training.

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There is no special program for night training. Soldiers sleep during the day and turn the clock around so that they train at night.

4.

Privates serve three years in the Soviet Army; noncommissioned officers, four; officers, indefinitely. Privates are put through one cycle, requiring one year; and then select ones are sent to a regimental training school for noncommissioned officers. The course lasts six months to a year. Upon completion of it, they return to their original unit as sergeants and help train the privates for their final two years of service.

There are just two categories of enlisted men: privates and sergeants. A corporal (Eufater) is merely a soldier promoted because of a good record in his second or third year. He receives no more money for this promotion since he is theoretically still filling the role of a rifleman. There are three grades of sergeants: Junior, Senior, and Top.

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Squad leaders receive a pay of 150 rubles per month regardless of rank although it is usually held by a sergeant. Top (1st) sergeants get 300 rubles a month. The company clerk gets only 30 rubles per month, since he is still considered filling a private's role. The clerk in section headquarters, with the job title of "clerk - 1st sergeant" gets 300 rubles per month because of his position. Thus, enlisted pay is according to position held, and not grade or rank.

5.

Upon discharge, the soldiers are issued a certificate for travel (Prokhodnoye Svidetelstvo) by their unit. This is the equivalent of a travel order in the United States Army. It shows what personal identification documents each soldier has on him. It is his authorization for a free railroad ticket to his destination indicated on the certificate. Usually the discharges return to his pre-service home since it is easier for him to get a job there. His travel certificate also indicates the period of time which the individual has to report as well as authorizing rations for this same time. The unit also notifies the local draft board of the soldier's return.

On arriving at his travel certificate destination, the discharges must first register with the local police and then with the local military board which puts him on their rolls as a demobilized veteran in reserve.

Enlisted reserves are kept on the rolls according to VUS (occupation specialty). Enlisted reserves receive no reserve training, no pay, no promotions. "Reserve service has no advantages, only disadvantages." The veteran must remain a part of it until he is 55 years old unless his health fails him in the meantime. There is no chance for a youth to join the reserves and avoid induction.

Officers in the reserve corps have a slightly different program from above. Each has a personal file which is kept with his unit while in the USSR or is maintained in the section on personnel of the Armed Forces in Moscow when his unit is serving outside the Soviet Union. Upon discharge, this file is sent to the officer's local board. The file, or at least extracts from it, are kept in the military district headquarters and at Moscow in the headquarters for the Armed Forces.

There are two ways of becoming a reserve officer: most common, is by discharge from active duty as an officer; and second, graduation from a college ROTC unit. By regulations reserve officers are to be called up for three months of extended active duty every three years. They receive no pay from the Army but continue to receive pay from their place of employment. They do receive food and transportation costs, however, and wear uniforms.

Reserve training is conducted by the appropriate arm or service in schools or camps activated for this purpose. Training sites are generally nearby so that no long distance travel is involved. Purpose of training is to provide refresher training and to teach new procedures. Reserve officers are not eligible for promotions. No pay is received for being in the reserves as it is considered a

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6. duty. Officers, too, must remain in the reserve corps until the age of 55 unless released for physical reasons.
- recruits upon joining new units
- are put in existing units.
7. Winter training begins the 1st of December, and summer training starts the 1st of May.
8. Units move into their winter quarters sometime in September. They enter summer quarters in and around Moscow in May; while in East Germany, in April. Summer training may continue even though troops have returned to winter quarters.
9. Demobilization is usually once a year. Generally, it occurs in or before the spring so that discharges can get home and take care of the crops.
10. Each branch of the Army has its own officer training schools and higher academies for advanced training in that particular arm or service. Officer candidates attend a three year course, and graduate as junior lieutenants or lieutenants. Following this, the officers are assigned to tactical units where they serve as platoon and company commanders in the field (occasionally even as battalion commanders) before being returned to a branch academy for higher training. Requirements for advanced schooling are at least two years as commanding officer of a company, age limit of 33 years, and a good record. Attending ranks are usually captain, and occasionally major. Four years' training is given at the branch academy, upon completion of which graduates are sent to command units according to their rank, and branch.
- The Frunze Academy is an infantry branch academy. Graduates of infantry branch academies can be assigned as commanding officers of other branches since, as general troop commanders, they would have a working knowledge of the other branches.

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